



**REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS**  
**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

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January 22, 1999

Paul J. Seligman, M.D., M.P.H.  
Deputy Assistant Secretary  
for Health Studies  
Department of Energy  
Germantown, MD 20874-1290

Dear Dr. Seligman:

I received the newest versions of the draft MOU among the RMI, RALGOV, and DOE as well as the DOE support plan for Rongelap. I want to thank you for these drafts, and thank you for your continued willingness to try to find consensus on the nature of the DOE environmental work to be undertaken with the Rongelap community. I also want to reiterate my appreciation for your flexibility and willingness to travel to Honolulu on such short notice.

I believe we are getting closer to an MOU and support plan that will be agreeable to the RMI, RALGOV, and to you. Instead of providing yet another iteration of the draft agreements, I wish to seek your clarification about certain aspects of the drafts you recently sent to Majuro for the RMI and RALGOV's consideration.

With regard to Rongelap, the primary concern of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade is to ensure that the Rongelapese are able to make informed decisions about their residence. The RMI Government remains committed to supporting the people of Rongelap with their resettlement efforts. As part of the resettlement program, Marshallese workers will reside as and work on Rongelap Atoll. It is imperative to the RMI Government that these workers, as well as returning Rongelapese, are living and working in a safe environment. Therefore, an essential aspect of the agreements with DOE regarding the environmental program for Rongelap must include:

- whole body counting for 100% of the workers;
- bioassay counting for 100% of the workers;
- baseline data for 100% of the workers;
- an easily accessible means to consider the cumulative exposure doses people receive;

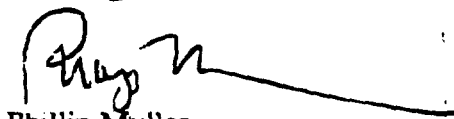
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a plan for the deposit of contaminated soil removed from the village area.

The latter point, regarding deposit of contaminated soil, is critical for several reasons. I want to know where the removed soil will be placed and what the plan is to ensure that it is safely deposited and will prove no threat to the public or the ecosystem.

I would appreciate it if you would let me know whether or not DOE can accommodate these aspects in the agreements. If the wholebody counter will be placed on Rongelap for the returning residents, is there a reason we can't put the machine there sooner in order to provide an additional safety measure to the workers?

I look forward to hearing your comments about these items that the RMI must see included in the agreements.

Best Regards,



Phillip Muller  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Cc: Mayor James Matayoshi  
Mr. Allen P. Stayman